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FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2448

INFO RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 3452

RUGMGU/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 712

RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 2562

RUEHJI/AMEMBASSY JIDDA 2360

RUGMKW/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT 3222

BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BAGHDAD 2687

E.O. 12065: GDS 10/13/87 (EAGLETON, WILLIAM L.) OR-M

TAGS: PEPR, IZ

SUBJECT: IRAQ'S LAND SUPPLY ROUTE THROUGH TURKEY

1. (CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT).

2. AN ID TRIP TOOK US FROM BAGHDAD THROUGH MOSUL, ZAKHO (TURKISH FRONTIER), MARDIN, URFA AND GAZIANTEP ON THE MAIN ROAD USED BY TRUCKS THAT BRING SUPPLIES FROM EUROPE AND TURKEY INTO IRAQ. FROM GAZIANTEP WE LEFT THE TRUCK ROUTE FOR KAYSEPI AND CAPPADOCIA AND THEN BACK THROUGH MALATYA, ELAZIG AND DIYARBAKIR TO ZAKHO.

3. IRAQI SECURITY BETWEEN MOSUL AND ZAKHO HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED SINCE THE INCIDENT LAST MONTH IN WHICH 14 TURKISH TRUCKS WERE BURNED AND THEIR DRIVERS TEMPORARILY KIDNAPPED BY KURDISH INSURGENTS. NEW ARMY DUGOUT SAND-BAGGED POSTS HAVE BEEN SET UP AT INTERVALS ALONG THE ROAD AND USE OF THE ROAD BY NIGHT IS RESTRICTED. ON THE

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TURKISH SIDE, THERE WERE SIGNS OF CLOSE SURVEILLANCE OF THE SYRIAN BORDER WHERE THE BARB WIRE FENCE RUNS WITHIN A FEW METERS OF THE ROAD. ELSEWHERE IN CENTRAL TURKEY WE SAW LITTLE SPECIAL SECURITY ON THE ROADS OR IN THE CITIES. THERE WAS ONLY ONE CHECKPOINT WHICH WE WERE WAVED THROUGH WITHOUT STOPPING BETWEEN MALATYA AND ELAZIG.

4. THE VOLUME OF TRUCK TRAFFIC ENTERING IRAQ FROM TURKEY IS IMPRESSIVE; ABOUT HALF OF IT APPEARS TO BE TURKISH; BOTH MEDIUM WOODEN SLAT-BACK TRUCKS AND GASOLINE AND DIESEL CARRYING TRUCKS WHICH SUPPLY THE NORTH OF IRAQ. THE TRUCK BACKUP ON THE TURKISH SIDE OF THE BORDER WAS SEVERAL KILOMETERS LONG BUMPER-TO-BUMPER.
EAGLETON

END OF MESSAGE

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